

Good morning,

This is a brief note to say that I agree with the FISTS organization petition number RM-10811 completely.

I've witnessed the ham radio service's quality degrade over the years because examinations are being made easier and easier for everyone to be able to pass their license.

The original idea behind ham radio was to train quality operators who could be of help in case of national or local disaster.

Morse code has always been very useful in situation of distress and I believe should still be a requirement for anyone who demonstrate to be serious enough to pass their radio license.

1- Morse code can still very well be extremely useful

2- Morse code acts as a barometer of someone's interest and seriousness to be part of our hobby.

3- Morse code is our pride

The only exception I would think of to exempt someone from passing the code test would be if the person is either dislexic or has a learning difficulty of some sort.

If morse code testing was to be removed like it's the case in many countries nowadays following the regrettable WARC-2003 decision, it may put in peril the lives of people who might have depended on it to have their lives (or the lives of others) saved.

If someone sends a distress signal and no one on the frequency is able to decode this message, it's like having a lifeguard on duty that can't swim.

Thank you so much for reading my comments.

God Bless,

Pierre Marchessault-Limoges.